

Fort Stockton Independent School District was approved in the 35th state legislature on May 17, 1917. It is now home to five public schools and over 2,500 students, teachers, and staff. Over the past two-and-a-half years, I have visited Fort Stockton Independent School District on numerous occasions. In fact, I was able to participate in the Coin Toss at a Panther football game this month.

Today I applaud the graduates and countless faculty and staff members who have helped spread the knowledge, skills, and values they learned at Fort Stockton Independent School District with Texas, the United States, and the entire world. The positive impact of this public school system resonates across Texas' 23rd Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HORSE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT OF 2017

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Horse Transportation Safety Act, a bill I introduced earlier today along with my esteemed colleague, Rep. JONES from North Carolina, to ensure the humane and safe transportation of horses.

The Horse Transportation Safety Act seeks to end the exploitation of a regulatory loophole designed to ban the transport of horses in double-deck trailers, whereby drivers have an incentive to inhumanely transport horses to assembly points, then reload them into single level trailers just outside their final destination.

The practice is dangerous and inhumane not only to the horses, it poses a threat to the travelling public.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "double-deck trailers do not provide adequate headroom for equines, with the possible exception of foals and yearlings. We do not believe that trailers that have two or more permanent levels that are not collapsible can be adequately altered to accommodate adult equines, especially tall equines."

The legislation is strongly supported by agricultural interests and animal protection groups alike. Among the organizations endorsing the bill are the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Welfare Institute, the National Black Farmers Association, and Return to Freedom Wild Horse Conservation.

Moreover, in 2010 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure unanimously adopted this bipartisan legislation.

This is common sense legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the swift passage of the Horse Transportation Safety Act.

HONORING THE HARRIET TUBMAN PRESS IMPRINT

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Harriet Tubman Press on the occasion of its first publication.

The Harriet Tubman Press, an imprint of Tsehai Publishers, is an important new publishing platform based in Los Angeles, California. It is named after one of the great icons of American history, and it is one of the only imprints in the country dedicated to providing a platform for the voices of today's African-American scholars and writers.

The Harriet Tubman Press is housed in the Marymount Institute for Faith, Culture, and the Arts at Loyola Marymount University, which is one of the centers of higher learning in my congressional district—the 43rd District in California.

The first publication of the Harriet Tubman Press will be *Voices from Leimert Park Redux*, a diverse collection of poetry that beautifully captures the heartbeat of the Leimert Park community. For decades, this Los Angeles neighborhood has been a thriving beacon of African-American activism, culture, and the arts. At a time when gentrification and displacement threaten neighborhoods across Southern California, the preservation of African-American cultural heritage in Leimert Park could not be more important.

I congratulate Loyola Marymount University, Tsehai Publishing, the Harriet Tubman Press, and all the members of the South Central Los Angeles community that worked so hard to make this first publication possible. Your dedication and fortitude is necessary to the preservation of the African-American voice. I'd like to further thank the artists, authors, and poets who stand up and propel that voice into our country's consciousness. Your voices are the only currency that can never be taken from you.

May the first publication of the Harriet Tubman Press signal the birth of a new force devoted to propelling, celebrating, and highlighting African-American culture through literature.

RECOGNIZING RUBY'S PLACE ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ruby's Place on the celebration of its 45th anniversary, to take place on Thursday, October 19.

Ruby's Place is a nonprofit organization founded in 1972 in Hayward, California. It was a pioneer in California in recognizing the need to provide shelter to victims of domestic violence.

Ruby's Place today provides services and shelter to homeless individuals and families, with a focus on helping victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. These services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, case management, mental health treatment, and children's programming. As this shows, Ruby's Place helps people both in their time of immediate need and provides assistance so they can get back on their feet.

Just as one example, during the 2015–2016 fiscal year, the counselors at Ruby's Place answered over 4,500 calls on its crisis hotline and provided 724 individual counseling sessions. One hundred seventy of these sessions were with children who have been affected by domestic violence.

I had the honor of recognizing Ruby's Place on the House Floor in October 2013, in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I am committed to continuing to fight domestic violence and working with organizations on the front lines, like Ruby's Place.

Over an amazing 45 years, about 6,000 adults and children have benefitted directly from Ruby's Place. I am incredibly grateful for its commitment to securing stable housing and supportive services for those in need, and I am honored to represent it in Congress. Our community is better and stronger for its tireless efforts.

I want to congratulate Ruby's Place on stabilizing the lives of individuals and families in the Bay Area for the last 45 years, and I wish it continued success in the future.

HONORING THE HALL COUNTY REACT PROGRAM AND THE NEW WELDING SHOP

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the grand opening of the Hall County Correction Institute's welding shop—a new addition to Hall County's Re-entry Accountability Court Transition program—which will equip inmates with skills that they can take with them as they re-enter society.

Since 2014, the local accountability court program has assisted offenders by providing vocational resources that can help deter recidivism and restore these individuals as productive members of the community. By allowing program participants to obtain state certifications in welding, the program will help people who will soon be released to find job security upon their departure.

Criminal justice reform is a priority for northeast Georgia as it is for me in Washington, which is why I introduced the Prison Reform and Redemption Act to help lower recidivism rates among federal prisoners through vocational training and other evidence-based programs.

Mr. Speaker, every person has value, and efforts like the Hall County Correction Institute's welding shop recognize and seek to magnify that value and potential. Investing in all of our neighbors—even those who have broken the law—can pave the way for stronger, safer communities for every man, woman, and child.

I thank Sheriff Couch and the Hall County Sheriff's Department for their commitment to improving the lives of inmates, and look forward to seeing the impact that the welding initiative will make on northeast Georgia.

HONORING THE CARDOZA FAMILY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, family reunions are a great way of staying connected, strengthening bonds and recognizing heritage.